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Letter dated 15 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 15 February 2001 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, reiterating Iraq's request to allocate 100 million euros from its funds to assist poor United States citizens, the vast majority of whom live below the poverty line and to whom the United States of America has failed to guarantee a life of basic dignity. The letter also concerns the United States' obstruction of Iraq's request to allocate 1 billion euros to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people suffering from Zionist aggression.

In his letter, the Minister for Foreign Affairs reiterates his request that you should intervene to ensure that Iraq receives authorization to use 100 million euros from its funds to provide aid and humanitarian assistance to poor United States citizens.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 15 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With each passing day, there is mounting international rejection of United States' coercive and hegemonic policies which have undermined international relations and replaced the rule of law with the law of the jungle, claiming the United Nations as their first victim. As international rejection of these reckless United States' policies gathers force, the United States Administration exhibits increasing arrogance, boastfulness and disregard for facts. The last few days have offered a striking demonstration of how the United States of America behaves towards Iraq in the United Nations.

At a time when the United States of America has agreed to spend billions of dollars on armaments, the militarization of outer space and the development of nuclear and all other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, and when it is carrying out acts of military aggression against nations and plotting against national institutions in various parts of the world, it has failed to guarantee to a broad cross section of its own population a life of basic dignity. Some 30 million United States citizens are living below the poverty line, obtaining their daily sustenance from garbage bags and scraps.

When Iraq takes the initiative, on purely humanitarian grounds, of trying to assist these homeless and destitute United States citizens with a gift of 100 million euros, the United States Administration explodes in anger, loses its temper and reacts in a manner that clearly shows that we are drawing attention to a situation which should be covered up and ignored. Accordingly, it uses the veto which it appropriated for itself as a member of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) not only to prevent poor United States citizens from obtaining Iraqi assistance, but also to obstruct Iraq's request to allocate 1 billion euros of Iraq's funds to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of the fraternal Palestinian people which is suffering from daily acts of Zionist aggression, murder, torture and a blockade imposed by the Zionist occupiers.

The tendency of the United States of America to use the logic of brute force, making a mockery of the proceedings of United Nations committees by imposing its will on them for its own narrow political purposes, has reached a point where it can no longer be ignored. In this regard, I can only reiterate the request expressed in my letters of 16 and 23 January 2001 that you should intervene to ensure that Iraq receives authorization to use 100 million euros from the funds in the Iraq account to provide aid and assistance to poor United States citizens. I hope that you will take note of my request and give it your earnest attention.

I should also be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq